

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 17 ANKARA 003490

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [TU](#) [TIP](#) [IN](#) [TURKEY](#)  
SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, June 1-15, 2005

1. In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

2. Published by The Messenger, Georgia's English Language Daily, on Wednesday, June 1:

TITLE: Georgians working in Greece are "Slaves, donkeys, and housekeepers"

BEGIN TEXT: According to the newspaper Rezonansi, over 150,000 Georgians legally live in Greece. However, the newspaper reports that twice as many live in the country illegally.

According to the article, the majority of Georgian illegal immigrants living in Greece fall victim to human trafficking due to their vulnerable status. "95 percent of the illegal migrants are women, including children, and 5 percent are men. The majority of men are young," according to the paper. The article also mentions that many Georgians are serving prison sentences in Greece, either due to their illegal status or because of the crimes they have committed.

According to their sources, while there are several ways of entering Greece, 90 percent of the illegal immigrants entered the country through either Turkey and Bulgaria. Some Georgians cross the border on foot, and some hide on buses. The paper adds that although some arrive in the country legally, they stay after their one month visa has expired. END TEXT.

3. Published by the Journal of Turkish Weekly ([www.turkishweekly.net](http://www.turkishweekly.net)) on Thursday, June 2:

TITLE: New Program Seeks to Halt Human Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in close cooperation with the Turkish government yesterday launched a campaign to fight against human trafficking in Eastern Europe, Turkey, and the former states of the Soviet Union.

The coordinated campaign aims to rescue and protect potential and current victims of human trafficking who are entering Turkey especially from Moldova and Ukraine.

IOM Chief of Mission in Turkey Marielle Sander-Listrom delivered a speech yesterday to introduce the new campaign which will be conducted through the media.

As a part of the media campaign, a free "157" emergency hotline to help rescue victims of human trafficking will be publicized through TV commercials. "In order to protect human rights we will air public service announcements on TV for the free 157 emergency hotline because we know that the victims watch TV in their free time, and this is the best way to reach them," said Lindstrom.

"Human trafficking is a problem that crosses international borders. This campaign embraces a comprehensive, regional approach to prevent human trafficking," she added.

Besides TV spots, Turkey will distribute small handouts or passport supplements to those who enter Turkey through main border gates. Besides telling about the 157 emergency lines, these supplements will include warnings about human trafficking.

Similar handouts will also be distributed in Ukraine by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to those planning to visit Turkey and groups at risk of falling prey to human trafficking. Distribution will be carried out especially at the ports of Odessa and Crimea, and the Antalya and Istanbul airports. As a part of the campaign, billboard advertisements were also erected at those airports.

The campaign, which includes public education, the training of public institutions for the application of related laws, and giving direct medical and physiological assistance to victims, is funded by a \$700,000 U.S. grant. END TEXT.

13. Published by Hurriyet on Thursday, June 2:  
BEGIN TEXT: The NSC Secretary General's office completed the writing of the new National Security Policy Document. Upon instructions of Prime Minister Erdogan the document was made shorter and limited to 25 pages. The current version of the document is hundreds of pages with its attachments.

The document will be taken up at the June 21 NSC meeting. Officials are discussing whether or not it should be made public.

Topics in the document as follows include: Internal threats: Fundamentalism, separatism and extreme left are the most important elements threatening internal security of the country; Regional Differences: Economic difficulties, difference of development levels among regions and unemployment are internal threats as well. They result in crimes of pick pocketing and purse snatching as well as provocative acts as witnessed in Trabzon and Mersin; External Threats: For the first time in this document external threats are not numbered in rank but 12 mile problem with Greece, Iran and Iraq and Cyprus issues were mentioned among concerns; Asymmetric threats: International drug smuggling, international terrorism and human trafficking were mentioned among these threats. END TEXT.

14. Published by TurkishPress.com on Friday, June 3, 2005:

TITLE: Ukrainian President Yushchenko: Political Relations Between Turkey and Ukraine Should Be Improved

BEGIN TEXT: Moscow (AA) - Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said on Friday that the trade volume between Turkey and Ukraine exceeded 2 billion dollars, stressing that the political relations should also be upgraded.

In an exclusive interview with the A.A. prior to his official visit to Turkey, scheduled for 7th-8th June, Yushchenko said that Turkey was really a special partner for Ukraine in respect of political and economic relations.

Yushchenko said that Ukraine favored further improvement of bilateral relations with Turkey, adding that "we are getting ready to submit proposals to Turkey to help solve clashes in international hot spots, because we endorse a coordinated operation in this area. More than 2-billion dollars of trade volume between our two countries gives us, the politicians, the responsibility to upgrade our political relations."

"Turkey's and Ukraine's political willingness to integrate with Europe is identical. We hope to joint he EU soon, like Turkey," said Yushchenko.

-UKRAINE ERSPECTS CRIMEAN TATARS-

Referring to the Crimean Tatars, Yushchenko said: "we respect Crimean Tatars who have ties with Turkey. We meet all the expenses of Crimean Tatars who proceed to Ukraine from Central Asia. We thank for the support of Turkey extended to us to enforce some social, economic and humanitarian assistance programs for Crimean Tatars."

-ECONOMIC RELATIONS-

Yushchenko said that the contributions of Turkish investors to Ukrainian economy was significant, adding that "we have lots of things to do in economic area, i.e. elimination of double taxation and the liberalization of trade. We must also discuss the common projects which we could undertake with our Turkish partners in Iraq. We can also work together in transportation and energy fields. Turkey can be an amazing partner for Ukraine as an alternative route in respect of transportation of oil and natural gas resources."

Noting that Ukraine decreased customs duties significantly, President Yushchenko added that Ukrainian liberalized its laws in the banking sector and made possible to open foreign banks in Ukraine.

-LIBERALIZATION OF VISA POLICY-

When reminded of the problems which Turkish businessmen faced in Ukraine such as getting a visa, as well as problems in banking sector, Yushchenko said that

Ukraine is trying to liberalize further its visa policy.

"I am looking forward to meet Turkish officials to discuss the visa issue. But we must also try to counter international drug and human trafficking," he said. END TEXT.

15. Published by International Herald Tribune on Saturday, June 4:

TITLE: Turkey's president uses veto on Koran courses

BEGIN TEXT: Ankara. President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey on Friday vetoed an amendment to the country's new penal code that would reduce penalties for teaching unauthorized courses on the Koran.

The move could reignite tension between the government, which has Islamic roots, and the country's fiercely secular establishment.

The provision was part of a package of amendments pushed by the governing Justice and Development Party, a conservative movement with Islamic roots.

The article, which would have allowed those convicted of opening and running illegal educational institutions to pay a fine rather than face a jail term of up to three years, resulted in accusations that the government of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan was condoning religious fundamentalism.

Islamic activists in Turkey often run clandestine schools teaching the Koran, where-free from government control-they are accused of indoctrinating students in hard-line fundamentalism.

Sezer, a secularist who has often clashed with the Erdogan government, said he had returned the amendment to Parliament for reconsideration because the measure would encourage "the opening of illegal educational institutions."

The principle of secularism "is the cornerstone of the values on which the Turkish Republic is founded," he said.

If the measure passes for a second time without changes, Sezer must approve it. He can, however, ask the constitutional court to annul the legislation.

The provision was introduced by the party as a last-minute change to a package of penal code amendments during a parliamentary debate last week.

The main opposition boycotted the session and asserted that the governing party had an Islamic agenda, even though it has disavowed its roots.

Turkey's new penal code, which the vetoed package was intended to amend, took effect Tuesday.

The code improves women's rights and imposes tougher penalties for rape, torture, human trafficking and "honor killings," in which women are killed by relatives for actions deemed to tarnish the family name.

But the code has come under attack from journalists and human rights groups, who say its provision to jail those found guilty of offenses such as insulting state institutions or harming national security will curb freedom of speech. END TEXT.

16. Reported by CNN Turk and Haberturk on Wednesday, June 1:

BEGIN TEXT: A 157 Hotline was inaugurated as a human trafficking hotline by the IOM in order for foreign women who are forced into prostitution in Turkey to seek help.

The IOM determined that only in the past five months 81 foreign women were brought to Turkey to be used in the prostitution sector. This is the figure that the IOM could reach.

Women, particularly from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, from now on will be able to call a hotline (157) in order to escape from organized crime that takes her passport away and forces her into prostitution.

The promotional footage for introduction of the hotline began to be shown on TV in Russia, the Ukraine and Moldova. Callers will be able to talk Russian-, Romanian-, Turkish- and English-speaking professional

advisors. If the caller is in danger, the hotline officials immediately inform the police.

During the two weeks following the inauguration of the hotline, 3000 calls came in, but only three of them were women who were in real danger. Police helped all three. From today on, the hotline will begin a more comprehensive campaign.

Marielle Sander Lindstrom, Turkey representative of IOM, is hopeful about the cooperation with the GOT. The IOM thinks that with this campaign Turkey will be dropped from the Black List on the human trafficking issue.

According to data furnished by IOM, in May 81 women were kidnapped in Turkey. Following were the provinces where the kidnapping incidents occurred:

Istanbul:	36
Antalya:	16
Ankara:	14
Artvin:	6
Kusadasi:	4

The citizenship of the 81 women who were kidnapped was:

Ukrainian:	23
Moldovan:	19
Uzbek:	10
Russian:	9
Romanian:	6

Twelve of the 81 kidnapped women were younger than 18 and 47 of them were between 19-25 years of age. The Hotline 157 aims at providing psychological, medical and direct support to these women.

17. Published on Habervitrini ([www.habervitrini.com](http://www.habervitrini.com)) on Thursday, June 2:

TITLE: These two beauties will prevent forced prostitution

BEGIN TEXT: The Hotline 157, which was established by the IOM to fight human trafficking at the international level, became operation.

Selin Unal, representative of IOM, made a press announcement at Ataturk Airport and introduced the Hotline 157 for victims. Unal said, "The IOM jointly promotes with Turkey a Hotline 157 for emergency help. This is a line for victims to call. A brochure for promoting the hotline is being prepared in Turkish, English and Romanian. Within the framework of the project, which has an annual budget of \$700,000, financed by the U.S. and Turkey, Turk Telecom established a toll free 157 hotline. A victim can call this hotline 24 hours a day and seven days a week and she will be directed immediately to police or the gendarmerie."

Unal went on, "The campaign, which was inaugurated for victims who came in particular from countries such as Moldova, Ukraine and Romania and who were forced to work by people with bad intentions, aims at saving these people. Almost all victims, referred to as modern slaves, are women and are used primarily in the sex trade. The campaign aims at providing medical, psychological and direct support to victims. It began at borders including Ataturk Airport, Antalya and Trabzon airports. Currently this hotline is being operated by the IOM and will be transferred to a Turkish NGO in November. Hotline 157 will be promoted in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics as well, and at the same time it will be helpful in visa and repatriation of immigrants."

IOM officials noted that Turkey was one of the top destination countries for human trafficking victims. They determined that there were 266 victims of human trafficking in Turkey in 2004. This figure is only a small portion of the actual number of victims. END TEXT.

18. Published by Radikal on Thursday, June 2:

TITLE: Human Trafficking Hotline

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey, along with IOM, is inaugurating in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republics and Turkey a special campaign in the fight against human trafficking. First, it will promote the Hotline 157 that became operation a while ago. Victims of human trafficking who are forced to stay or work will be able

to call this toll free line around the clock.  
Volunteers are working at the hotline where responders speak Turkish, Russian and Romanian. END TEXT.

19. Published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
(www.rferl.org) on Friday, June 3:

TITLE: Middle East: U.S. Trafficking Report  
Criticizes Four Gulf Allies

BEGIN TEXT: The State Department report lists four U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf region-Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates-as among the least responsive to the trafficking problem.

It says they are main destinations for sex slaves and forced laborers, mainly women and children, from countries including Iran, Afghanistan, and the former Soviet Union.

U.S. officials today stressed that the 14 worst-ranked, or "Tier-3," countries have three months to improve antitrafficking efforts or face sanctions. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters she hopes the report will result in increased cooperation.

"We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking, and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it," Rice said. "All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society."

The State Department report examined the situation in 150 countries. It said an estimated 600,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, most of whom are women and children. It cited problems of poverty and organized crime in countries victimized by trafficking as well as the need for richer countries, including the United States, to address demand for trafficked people.

The State Departments' senior advisor on human trafficking, John Miller, said sex slavery is a particular problem. "When we look at slavery worldwide, we believe sex slavery is the largest category of transnational slavery," Miller said. "It is intrinsically linked to prostitution, and we find that where prostitution is encouraged, the number of victims increases. That is why to combat sex slavery we are urging a greater focus on demand, educating and dissuading the so-called customers."

The report also included a "watch-list" of states deemed to be of concern for trafficking but not subject to sanction. Those countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Slovakia. The U.S. report cited a number of tragic cases from this region. It mentioned a 17-year-old orphan from Uzbekistan named Lusa whose abduction was engineered by her aunt. She was sold to a prostitution ring in Dubai and when she was "no longer useable," was sent to a psychiatric center, the report said. Government officials and an Uzbek nongovernmental organization are negotiating her release.

Another case mentioned a young Belarusian woman from Minsk named Svetlana, who was trafficked to Turkey. She died attempting to escape. But the U.S. State Department's Miller says Belarusian and Turkish authorities worked to prosecute those responsible for her death.

"There is a bright spot in this too-common tragedy. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated this year to arrest and charge those responsible for Svetlana's death, which I think brings out the bad things that are happening but also how there is-there are counterattacks going on," Miller said.

U.S. officials downplayed the threat of sanctions tied to the report but said it could be effective as a "naming and shaming" countries linked to human slavery. END TEXT.

10. Published by Turks.US on Saturday, June 4:

TITLE: US Issues report on Human Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: The US annual report on Human Trafficking was issued by the State Department on Friday. Turkey was on the list of governments who do not fully comply with the US minimum standards, but are however, making significant efforts to bring themselves in line with those standards.

The list is an extensive one with seventy seven countries with US minimum standards:

TIER ONE: Countries whose governments fully comply with U.S. minimum standards: (LIST OF COUNTRIES)

TIER TWO: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards: (LIST OF COUNTRIES)

TIER TWO SPECIAL WATCH LIST: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance and meet one of the following conditions:

a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing.

b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year.

c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year. (LIST OF COUNTRIES)

TIER THREE: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so: (LIST OF COUNTRIES).  
END TEXT.

11. Published by Washington Post on Saturday, June 4:

TITLE: Saudis Rebuked on Forced Labor

BEGIN TEXT: The United States yesterday names Saudi Arabia and three other Persian Gulf Arab allies as having among the world's worst records in halting human trafficking, a rebuke that could subject the countries to sanctions if they do not act quickly to address U.S. concerns.

The finding, in an annual report issued by the State Department, places Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in the same category as such countries as Cuba, Burma, North Korea and Sudan. Human rights activists said the inclusion of such close allies in the war on terrorism suggests that the administration is beginning to eliminate from its human rights policy what some have dubbed the "Middle East exception."

Last year, the State Department also faulted Saudi Arabia for the first time for its lack of religious tolerance.

The report said as many as 800,000 people, many of them women and children, are trafficked across international borders as sex workers and forced laborers in a modern-day slave trade. This is the fifth annual report, which was mandated by an act of Congress at the instigation of an unusual coalition of feminists and Christian evangelical groups. President Bush frequently denounced sexual slavery to motivate his evangelical base during the 2004 campaign. In the report, the Gulf Arab states were cited primarily for practices that allowed the abuse of domestic servants and laborers who came to the Middle East primarily from Asia.

The report said the Saudis, for example, lack laws criminalizing most trafficking offenses, and there is little evidence of whether employers are ever prosecuted. Many of the foreign laborers in Saudi Arabia work as domestic servants, and they are not covered by Saudi labor laws.

In Saudi Arabia, "we have domestic workers being brought in from many countries into domestic servitude, child beggars, a lot of beatings, reports of beatings, and rape-very difficult to get shelter, no convictions," said John R. Miller, the senior adviser for human trafficking.

"Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. "The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty upon which this nation was founded."

Rice has made promotion of democracy and freedom a



central tenet at the State Department. A senior department official said she was involved in the decision making on where to rank individual countries and had directed analysts to make recommendations based on the criteria laid out in the law establishing the report.

Tom Malinowski, Washington advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said the inclusion of the Gulf states in this year's report was significant: "It is another positive sign that the administration is willing to be honest and straightforward about the shortcomings of its allies in the Arab world, including Saudi Arabia."

Other countries listed as poor performers in stopping trafficking include Bolivia, Cambodia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Togo and Venezuela. An additional 27 countries, including China, India and South Africa, were placed on a watch list, meaning they have significant problems but the governments appear to be making an effort to combat them. Countries that are listed as poor performers can lose non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States, or be deemed ineligible to take part in cultural and educational exchange programs. But countries can avoid sanctions if they begin to take actions to address U.S. concerns in the next few months.

Two years ago, Turkey and Greece, two NATO allies, fell into the bottom category, but they have since improved their standing. Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela have been sanctioned since the reports began.

"The purpose of the law is not to sanction," Miller said. "It is to get progress in freeing the victims and throwing the traffickers in jail." END TEXT.

12. Published in Sabah on Sunday, June 5:

TITLE: "SNATCH & RUN" IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S. REPORT

BEGIN TEXT: The State Department human trafficking report noted that Turkey was a transit and destination country for women and children kidnapping for sexual exploitation.

The State Department issued its fifth such report and in the Turkey portion of the 2005 report it was noted that women, men and children were kidnapped for being forced into labor. It was stated, "There has been increased evidence that Turkish citizens were kidnapped for sexual exploitation and forced labor."

It was also noted that most of the victims were brought from Eastern Europe and former Soviet Republics and in particular from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.

In the report Turkey is in Tier 2 "watch list."

It was stated, "The GOT has not been implementing fully the minimum standards necessary for eliminating the problem. But it shows a serious effort toward this end." END TEXT.

13. Published by Radikal on Saturday, June 4:

TITLE: Prostitution Information Line Jammed

BEGIN TEXT: Curious Turks jammed the 157 Helpline, for foreigners forced into the country or into prostitution. More than three thousand people called the helpline in two weeks, and only three people were in real danger.

The Foreign Ministry created a new diversion with the phone calls to the 157 Helpline. The line, starting its operation last month, was called by more curious Turks than the needy. The more than 3,000 calls jammed the line and the necessary service wasn't given. The Ministry determined that only three of the calls were for real reasons. Due to the curiosity, the phone calls were forwarded to tapes in Russian, Romanian and Ukrainian.

The Ministry's goal is to prevent infringement of foreigner's human rights, and is signing agreements to solve the problem at its base to prevent illegal human trafficking and to facilitate the return of those people. Viktor Yushchenko, the leader of Ukraine, one of the most important source countries will sign one of these agreements during his official visit to Turkey from 6-8 June. END TEXT.

14. Published by the Journal of Turkish Weekly on Monday, June 6:

TITLE: Turkey must Fight Human Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey is a transit and destination country for women and children trafficked primarily for sexual exploitation, the U.S. State Department said in its human trafficking report released on June 1.

The report claimed that some men, women, and children are also trafficked for forced labor. "There has been increasing evidence of the internal trafficking of Turkish citizens for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Most victims come from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus," the report added.

The report went on to claim that the Turkish government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, it is making significant efforts to do so.

US: It's too early to see results of Turkish counter-trafficking campaign.

Concerning the new program in Turkey that aims to fight against human trafficking, the U.S. State Department report said, "The government publicly launched its 2005 counter-trafficking campaign, which is too recent to show results."

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in close cooperation with the Turkish government, last week launched a campaign to fight human trafficking in Eastern Europe, Turkey, and the former states of the Soviet Union. The coordinated campaign aims to rescue and protect potential and current victims of human trafficking, who are entering Turkey especially from Moldova and Ukraine. As a part of the media campaign, a free "157" emergency hotline to help rescue human trafficking victims will be publicized through TV commercials. Besides TV commercial spots, Turkey will distribute small handouts or passport supplements to those who enter Turkey through main border gates. As well as informing people about the 157 emergency lines, these supplements will include warnings about human trafficking. END TEXT.

15. Published by Iran Focus ([www.iranfocus.com](http://www.iranfocus.com)) on Monday, June 6, 2005:

TITLE: Human trafficking not being combated in Iran: US State Dept

BEGIN TEXT: Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation, according to the 2005 annual Trafficking in Persons Report released by the United States' Department of State.

The DoS Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons noted that "the Government of Iran does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

"Internal trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and children for forced labor also takes place," it said, adding that such practices are fueled by an increasing number of vulnerable groups, such as runaway women, street children, and drug addicts.

In April, a number of government officials and security officers were arrested during raids on at least five houses used as brothels in and around the town of Neka (northern Iran).

Many runaway girls, some as young as 13, were being forced into prostitution by several organized prostitution rings. A number of officers from Iran's notorious State Security Forces (SSF), commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and heads of a number of local government departments and institutions were among those rounded up in the raids.

The girls were also arrested pending judicial sentencing.

The DoS report said that Iran should also take steps to enhance protection measures for trafficking victims, including ensuring those who are punished for trafficking are not victims.

"Women and girls are trafficked to Pakistan, Turkey, and Europe for sexual exploitation. Boys from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are trafficked through Iran to Gulf states, where they are ultimately



forced to work as camel jockeys, beggars, or laborers," the report also noted.

"Afghan women and girls are trafficked to Iran for sexual exploitation, and for sexual and labor exploitation in the context of forced marriage," it added. END TEXT.

16. Published by BakuToday.net on Monday, June 6:

TITLE: U.S. Report on Trafficking Puts Armenia on "Watch List"

BEGIN TEXT: The U.S. Department of State has urged Armenia to show more consistency and commitment in its fight against human trafficking. In its annual report published last week the U.S. Department of State has put Armenia on a "watch list" deemed to be of concern for trafficking.

The countries on the "watch list" that also includes Azerbaijan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Slovakia are not subject to sanctions unlike 14 countries-mainly from Asia and Africa-that could face sanctions as worst offenders for failing to combat human trafficking.

In particular, the U.S. Department of State report reads: "Armenia is more a source than a transit country for trafficking. Women and girls from Armenia are mainly trafficked as sex slaves to the United Arab Emirates and Turkey."

According to the U.N. data, more than a 1,000 women, most of whom are victims of trafficking, are exploited as prostitutes in the UAE and Turkey."

The report says that although the Armenian government makes efforts to combat this phenomenon, it still does not achieve the results that may meet even the minimum requirements.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she hopes the report will result in increased efforts to stop the trafficking of people.

"We trust that this year's report will raise international awareness of the crime of trafficking, and spur governments across the globe to take determined actions against it," she said. "All states must work together to close down trafficking routes, prosecute and convict traffickers, and protect and reintegrate victims into society."

Armenia appeared on the "watch list" because it failed to present proof last year of its commitment to combat human trafficking appropriately.

Despite the increasing number of trafficking-related cases examined by the courts, punishments remain inappropriately mild and the size of fines low.

In particular, the report indicates that article 132 of the Criminal Code prohibits human trafficking and sets four to eight years in prison for this crime.

But the Armenian Government mainly applies article 262 that sets a milder punishment.

The State Department particularly points out that only one out of 16 cases examined by Armenian courts in 2004 resulted in the application of article 132, while article 262 was applied in the rest. The usual jail terms in sentences passed in trafficking cases in Armenia are 6 months to 2 years, there are cases that are dismissed or in which the criminal gets away by paying a fine. These punishments, says the report, are incommensurate with the gravity of the crime.

The report says that Prosecutor Office members criminally assisted people involved in trafficking and frontier guards accepted bribes to facilitate their movement.

The government failed to investigate and institute criminal cases against those officials involved in trafficking, says the report.

Investigative Journalists NGO head Edik Baghdasarian said in an RFE/RL interview that he possesses information reported by victims of trafficking themselves that some workers of the Prosecutor Office accepted bribes from pimps in Dubai.

In particular, Baghdasarian claims that Prosecutor's office worker Arestakes Yeremian is involved in this

business.

But Yeremian denied the accusations in a RFE/RL talk.

Chairman of the Intergovernmental Anti-Trafficking Commission Valery Mkrtumian admits that Armenia's appearance on the "watch list" is a retrogression for the country.

Regarding the involvement of officials in this business, he said: "There are different sources. We can form a certain opinion based on information provided by NGOs or other organizations. But we do not know any name of an official involved or assisting in this crime." END TEXT.

17. Published in The Daily Star ([www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb)) on Tuesday, June 7:

TITLE: Yushchenko puts energy exports and visas on agenda for Turkey visit

BEGIN TEXT: Kiev: Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said Monday that freeing up the visa regime and greater energy cooperation between Ukraine and Turkey would be high on the agenda for his visit to Turkey where he was due to arrive later in the day.

"We are ready to seriously review our visa regime, including with Turkey," Yushchenko was quoted as telling the Turkish media through his press service.

Yushchenko was due to leave for Turkey on a three-day trip to Ankara and Istanbul, where he was to meet with his counterpart Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as local business leaders.

Ukraine earlier this year withdrew visa requirements for European Union passport holders, and Yushchenko said Kiev was considering similar measures for other countries.

"In parallel, we have to answer the question of security against international terrorism, the narcotics trade and human trafficking," he said. This is why I am eagerly awaiting discussions with the Turkish side about a reciprocal liberalization of the visa regime." Cooperation in the energy sector is another priority item in talks between the two countries, which both have large portions of the Black Sea coastline. Ukraine, on the sea's northern coast, hopes to supply electricity exports to energy-hungry Turkey in the south.

"We are ready to present a project for electricity exports," Yushchenko said. Turkey, for its part, could ensure oil and gas transport to Ukraine from "alternative regions," he said. Currently, Ukraine receives most of its oil and gas from Russia and Turkmenistan.

Ukraine is also interested in boosting Turkish investment, which now funds some 331 businesses in the ex-Soviet republic. The two sides will also discuss cooperating in Iraq reconstruction projects, Yushchenko said.

Yushchenko and his wife Kateryna were to spend Monday and Tuesday in Ankara and Wednesday in Istanbul. END TEXT.

18. Reported in Cumhuriyet on Tuesday, June 7:

BEGIN TEXT: According to the UN, around 2 million people live as refugees around the world.

Reporting from a refugee conference in Antalya, the daily wrote that each year 1 million people emigrate through illegal means because of economic, organized crime-related reasons and regional wars, political chaos and conflicts.

According to UN figures, each refugee pays approximately \$3500 to organizers and thus the total figure reaches about \$9billion.

The daily wrote that Turkey has been a destination country for illegal immigration and human trafficking. The daily also wrote that reps from 16 countries attended the meeting in Antalya and it was stated that Turkey in the past was a transit country.

Omer Aydin, Deputy Department Head of Smuggling and Organized Crime, TNP, who hosted the conference, said, "International organized crime rings are organizing the refugee smuggling that stems from reasons such as

economic, social and political (hardships) with (hopes of) finding a job and applying for asylum. END TEXT.

119. Reported by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on Tuesday, June 7:

TITLE: Ukraine's Yushchenko In Turkey

BEGIN TEXT: 7 June 2005-Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko is in Ankara for talks today with Turkey's President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and parliament speaker Bulent Arinc.

Yushchenko met with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan shortly after arriving late on 6 June for the three-day official visit. There were few immediate details of their meeting.

Before leaving Ukraine, Yushchenko had said he expects to review visa requirements with Turkey during his visit. Ukraine earlier this year withdrew visa requirements for European Union passport holders and Yushchenko said he is considering similar measures for other countries.

Agreements involving the fight against terrorism, drugs, and human trafficking are expected to be signed during the visit. END TEXT.

120. Published by Zaman on Wednesday, June 8:

TITLE: Turkey Determined to Prevent Human Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey has been elevated to a category along with countries that show intensive effort to eliminate human trafficking according to the U.S. State Department Human Trafficking Report for 2005, issued on June 3.

In a release by the U.S. State Department on the report issued on June 3, 2005, it stated that although Turkey has not yet met all the minimum standards on this issue, it has been involved in intensive efforts toward this end. Turkey was elevated to Tier 2. In the 2004 report, Turkey was in Tier 2, Watch List. In this group there are countries which do not meet all the minimum standards in eliminating human trafficking, but which show major effort in this field, as well as countries where the number of human trafficking victims increased significantly or a country where there has been a drop in human trafficking or a country makes commitments about the developments to be recorded in the future. END TEXT.

121. Published in Radikal on Wednesday, June 8:

TITLE: Human Traffickers to Be Sorry

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey has been elevated to a category along with countries that show intensive effort to eliminate human trafficking according to the U.S. State Department Human Trafficking Report for 2005, issued on June 3.

In a release by the U.S. State Department, it was stated that in 2004, Turkey was in Tier 2 Watch List and that as a result of its intensive work in the fight against human trafficking, it has been elevated to the next group.

The U.S. has shown the Hotline 157, which was inaugurated for helping human trafficking victims, as a major step taken for this end. END TEXT.

122. Published by Kiev Interfax-Ukraine on Tuesday, June 7:

TITLE: Ukraine, Turkey Sign Cooperation Agreements

BEGIN FBIS-TRANSLATED TEXT: Ukraine and Turkey have signed cooperation agreements in science and technology, the energy sector and railway transportation during the official visit of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to Turkey. They also signed an agreement on readmission.

[Passage omitted: who signed the agreements]

The Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Regulation and the Turkish state agency for nuclear energy signed a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation and exchange of nuclear regulation information. The memorandum was signed by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk. END FBIS-TRANSLATED TEXT.

123. Reported by Anadolu Ajansi on Tuesday, June 7:

TITLE: U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ''TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT'' -TURKEY UPGRADED

BEGIN TEXT: ANKARA (A.A) - 07.06.2005 - Turkey was upgraded to the category of 'countries that make significant efforts to combat human smuggling', according to U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report.

Turkish MFA said that in the report which was issued on June 3rd, 2005, Turkey was upgraded to the 'Second Group' which expends intensive efforts on this issue even if it has not yet fully complied with the minimum standards to combat human trafficking.

Under the '2004 U.S. Human Trafficking and Victims Law' which the State Department presented to the Congress, Turkey had been included in 'second Group-Follow Up List,' which was added to the report as fourth category.

The Turkish MFA announcement said Turkey was upgraded to a higher group due to its efforts to combat human trafficking in the past year. END TEXT.

124. Reported by Anadolu Ajansi on Wednesday, June 8:  
BEGIN TEXT: Jandarma captured 53 illegal immigrants who wanted to cross the border in the Buyuk Altiagac village of Meric, Edirne.

They were on a minibus with the license plate 34 BV 4521. The 27 illegal immigrants were from Pakistan, Iraq, Mauritania and Palestine.

Meanwhile, 26 people were captured in the Seren Village of Meric. They were from Mauritania, Somali, Palestine, Tunus and Algeria.

V.A. was sent to the prosecutor for "human trafficking." A total of 53 illegal immigrants were sent to the Edirne Police for deportation. END TEXT.

125. Published by Aksam on Saturday, June 4:  
TITLE: "BAD REPORT FROM THE U.S. ON TURKEY"

BEGIN TEXT: In the U.S. State Department's Human Trafficking Report it was stated that Turkey was a transit and destination country in the women and children trafficking in particular for sexual exploitation.

The Department issued its 5th report. The report on 2005 noted that some women and children were kidnapped for being forced into labor. Turkey was on Tier 2 Watch List. It was stated, "The GOT does not fully implement the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking but it shows serious effort." END TEXT.

126. Published in Cumhuriyet on Wednesday, June 8:

TITLE: WOMEN WHO ARE IGNORED

BEGIN TEXT: A "Women Trafficking: A Serious Human Rights Violation" conference was held in Trabzon with contributions from the EU Commission. It was stressed that the ultimate solution to the problem was the fight against poverty.

Liza Pate, the representative from the EU Commission Turkey delegation, address the conference at the Grand Zorlu Hotel. Pate noted that although Turkey recorded progress recently, there were still some shortcomings.

Pate said, "When one looks at the various source, transit or destination countries where there is in human trafficking, one sees that in most of the cases major organized crime networks and other illegal organizations were involved." Pate stated that in order to prevent this, victims should be given sufficient protection and assistance and that all types of sexual violence should be defined as crime and there should be judicial cooperation.

Aspa Plakantonaki, Greece Project Coordinator for Medecins Du Monde, said that many people disappeared in towns in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as former Soviet Republics, and added, "These disappearances were neither because of an illness (epidemic?), nor a war. They became the victims of human trafficking. What is most bothersome is the fact that this man-made disaster can be preventable. But unfortunately the world is ignoring these women."

Nazan Sati, representative of the International Blue Crescent Humanitarian Assistance and Development Foundation, said that they produced emergency humanitarian assistance, as well as projects on social and economic development, on improvements, education and health. She noted that they implemented them at national and international level.

Journalist Ahmet Sefik Mollamehmetoglu stressed that at the root of the human trafficking and immigrant smuggling problems lays the unequal world system. He

said, "All these economic, social, cultural and historical reasons lead to human trafficking and immigrant smuggling. As long as these reasons continue to exist, so will these violations." END TEXT.

127. Published in Milliyet on Saturday, June 4:

TITLE: "PROSTITUTION IGNORED IN RETURN FOR BRIBES"

BEGIN TEXT: The U.S. Administration noted that Turkey was both a transit and a destination country in women and children trafficking. It noted that along with those who arrive from the former Soviet Republic, Turkish citizens, too, were kidnapped for sexual exploitation or forced employment. In the most recent State Department Human Trafficking report the U.S. listed Turkey among Tier 2 countries that do not meet minimum necessary standards to prevent human trafficking. The report also noted that the GOT showed significant effort to meet these standards. It emphasized that there was progress in training security forces and on automatic deportation of those who were smuggled into Turkey.

In the U.S. report it was also stated that there were increasing data that Turkish citizens (too) were kidnapped in the country for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

The report pointed to the fact that most of the women and children brought to Turkey were from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Romania, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

The report noted that no Turkish official was detained or investigated in 2004 for human trafficking.

It stated, "There have been reports that officials in charge of law enforcement were permitting illegal prostitution in return for bribes." END TEXT.

128. Published by Radikal on Monday, June 13:

TITLE: The Hotline that Saves Women from the Hands of Dealers: 157

BEGIN TEXT: The 157 hotline established by the IOM to save the victims of human trafficking has begun to produce early results.

A Moldavian victim was saved when she called the hotline from a hotel room in Antalya. She also made her dealer to be captured.

Until now the IOM worked with the MFA and the Interior Ministry but from now on it will seek the support of NGOs nationwide.

Marielle Sander Lindstrom, the IOM Turkey Mission Chief, explained to "Radikal" the early results from a week-old 157 hotline.

She noted that Ukraine, Moldova and Turkey were prominent countries in human trafficking. She said that the 157 hotline would resolve this traffic among the three countries.

She noted that the Moldavian woman who called the hotline from an Antalya hotel, made the police encounter another woman as well when they walked into her room. She said, "We learned that the other woman was not a victim but a dealer. Unfortunately being a dealer becomes more common among women. Women are deceiving other women and our job becomes more difficult. We both save the victims and make dealers get captured. When an information comes to 157 hotline, immediately 155 police hotline is activated. Police go to the site. The Moldavian victim currently is in the shelter in Istanbul. The woman dealer is in jail."

Turkey became a full member of IOM in November 2004. The IOM is impressed with the Turkish authorities' efforts to determine and help victims of human trafficking. But it cannot tell how many victims of human trafficking exist in Turkey.

The Turkish security forces determined 262 victims of trafficking, including 239 foreigners, in 2004.

She pointed to the fact that the fight against dealers got more intense this year. She added that IOM reps in Ukraine, Moldova and Turkey got together with NGOs with the inauguration of the 157 hotline and began a joint struggle.

Media ads have a very special place in this fight. With the help of a 30 second ad in Russian on television broadcast in Moldova, both the assistance in Turkey and the support line in Moldova will be introduced. END TEXT.

129. Published by Milliyet on Monday, June 13:  
TITLE: Princess in Ankara

BEGIN TEXT: After 71 years a member of the prominent Swedish Royal family will visit Turkey. Swedish Crown Princess Victoria will give messages of support to children, women and human rights.

Victoria Ingrid Alice Desiree, the first princess for whom a special law was adopted in order for her to assume the throne after her father King Carl 16 of Sweden, will arrive in Turkey today for a two-day official visit.

Victoria will attend a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Erdogan and participate in programs that her country supports such as improving the situation of women and children, as well as improving human rights.

Princess Victoria will present funds raised by Swedish companies doing business in Turkey, to the UNICEF Turkey representative at the Swedish National Day reception this evening.

Princess Victoria will present scholarships to two Turkish students for them to study human rights law in Sweden tomorrow morning. Scholarships will be given for the first time in the memory of Anna Lindh, who was known for her support for Turkey's EU membership during her tenure as the Foreign Minister from 1998 to 2003, when she was assassinated.

At the ceremony for the scholarship, information will be provided on the women's shelter to serve human trafficking victims that opened in Ankara with Sweden's contributions.

Princess Victoria's visit will be the first Swedish Royal Family visit in 71 years. There has been intensive diplomatic traffic between the governments of the two countries. Her grandfather King Gustav Adolf visited Turkey 71 years ago as a crown prince and posed to photographers with Ataturk. Now Princess Victoria will give a similar pose with Prime Minister Erdogan.

Princess Victoria is known to be the first princess to prove to the world that gender equality is valid for assuming the throne as well.

The 1000-year-old Swedish Royal Family had declared only boys as crown princes in the last 300 years. With a constitutional amendment when Victoria was two, the rule was changed and the eldest child, without gender discrimination, was allowed to assume the throne.

Victoria, who was born in 1977, is the eldest of the three children of the King. With the help of the amendment, Victoria had the right to assume the throne before her brother.

The Princess studied at state schools in Sweden. She also studied at Yale University in the U.S.

Princess Victoria will also become the commander-in-chief of the Swedish army when she assumes the throne. The world was interested in her when she received basic military training for three weeks in 2003. Swedish public opinion is divided over whether Princess Victoria should marry Daniel Westling, a sports trainer. They have been together for three years. END TEXT.

MCELDOWNEY